Daily Ledger

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025 | CANTONDAILYLEDGER.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Several of the goals set out in Tesla CEO Elon Musk's pay package are written in vague language that could provide him with hefty payouts without significantly boosting profit, according to experts. ODD ANDERSEN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

Musk could be paid billions without hitting Tesla goals

'Mars-shot milestones' built into CEO's

Chris Kirkham, Rachael Levy and Abhirup Roy REUTERS

LOS ANGELES - When Tesla directors offered Elon Musk the biggest executive pay package in corporate history in September, it reassured investors that he would have to achieve the equivalent of "Mars-shot milestones" to earn \$878 billion in Tesla stock over 10 years.

The board's proposal said Musk would have to "completely transform Tesla and society as we know it" in robotics and autonomous driving as well as stock value and profits. Conversely, Musk would get "zero" unless he meets those "incredibly ambitious"

Yet Musk could reap tens of billions of dollars without meeting most of those targets, according to a Reuters analysis of his performance goals and more than a dozen experts in executive pay, company valuations, robotics and automotive trends including autonomous driving.

He could collect more than \$50 billion by hitting a handful of the board's easier goals that won't necessarily revolutionize Tesla's products or business, the Reuters review found.

Even hitting just two of the easiest targets, along with modest stock growth, would net Musk \$26 billion, more than the lifetime pay of the next eight best-paid CEOs combined, a group that includes Meta Platforms' Mark Zuckerberg, Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison, Apple's Tim Cook, and Nvidia's Jensen Huang, according to an analysis for Reuters by research firm Equilar.



Tesla's EV business, which accounts for almost all its revenue, is deteriorating, with aging models facing fierce competition. Its only newer model, the Cybertruck, has flopped. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Musk's vehicle sales goals are exceptionally easy to achieve, according to four automotive experts. If Musk sells 1.2 million cars a year over the next decade, on average, he earns \$8.2 billion in stock if Tesla's market value grows from \$1.4 trillion today to \$2 trillion in 2035, well under longterm market-average growth. That's a half-million fewer cars per year than Tesla sold in 2024.

Three other product-development goals are written in vague language that could provide Musk hefty payouts without significantly boosting profit, according to six robotics or autonomous-driving industry experts who reviewed Musk's goals for Reu-

Tesla and Musk did not respond to requests for comment.

In a statement, a spokesperson for the Tesla board said: "The proposed pay package is actually worth zero to our CEO unless and until the shareholders see the value of the company nearly double and an operational milestone is met."

The board's pay proposal requires Musk to remain a Tesla executive for at least seven and a half years to collect any stock compensation. Musk, however, would get the voting rights associated with the share awards as soon as he earns them.

Musk said last month on his social media platform X that the package is "not about 'compensation,' but about me having enough influence over Tesla to ensure safety if we build millions of robots."

In its proposal, the board said Musk is "motivated by more than just conventional forms of compen-

See MUSK, Page 2A

Tariff rebate checks uncertain

Hannah Hudnall and Marina Johnson

Peoria Journal Star

USA TODAY NETWORK

President Donald Trump announced in a Nov. 9 Truth Social post that millions of Americans would receive \$2000 checks from the success of tariffs.

"People that are against Tariffs are FOOLS!" the president wrote. "We are now the Richest, Most Respected Country In the World, With Almost No Inflation, and A Record Stock Market Price. 401k's are Highest EVER. We are taking in Trillions of Dollars and will soon begin paying down our ENOR-MOUS DEBT, \$37 Trillion."

"A dividend of at least \$2000 a person (not including high income people!) will be paid to everyone," Trump said.

But will Americans really see these checks? And if so, when? Here's what we know.

Are Americans getting \$2,000 tariff checks?

Although Trump said most Americans will receive at least \$2,000 from the success of tariffs, it is not a guarantee. Such a proposal would likely need Congressional approval, according to

See TARIFFS, Page 2A

Students shine at arts exhibition and awards

Abreanna Blose

Al-assisted reporter **USA TODAY NETWORK**

The Western Illinois University Department of Art and Design hosted its ninth annual High School Art Exhibition & Awards on Oct. 31.

The event allows high school students to showcase their artwork, participate in studio workshops and engage in portfolio reviews with WIU Art & Design faculty, according to a community announcement.

This year's top honors went to Liyah York, who received Best in Show, and Adriana Weaver, who earned the Blick Visionary Award.

The additional category winners

are as follows: 2-Dimensional Art

- First Place: Lily Almanza
- Second Place: Ramona Johnson
- Third Place: Serina Nimrick
- 3-Dimensional Art
- First Place: Roger Viadero • Second Place: Nevaeh Shinn

See EXHIBIT, Page 2A



Volume 114 | No. 21 To subscribe 647-5100

